

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04738 221544Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 221524Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8879

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4738

EXDIS

COPENHAGEN FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE IEP

REF: OSLO 4707

1. 1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TRIED TO CONTACT AMBASSADYR BYRNE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NORDIC CHIEFS OF MISSIONS MEETING TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION LEAK OUT THROUGH OTHER NORDIC CAPITALS. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD PROMOTED THE SECRETARY THAT NAY DECISION TO SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE TO FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO OCTOBER 29. HE ALSO STRESSED TO ME THE SENSITIVITY OF THE PRESENT DOMESTIC DEBATE ON THE ISSUE AND THE EMBARRASSMENT WHICH A LEAK WOULD CAUSE HIM IN HIS RELATIONS WITH THE STORTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. (COMMENT: FRYDENLUND PRESUMABLY HAD IN MIND A LEAK INDICATING HE TOLD US MORE ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAN HE HAD THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT. HIS CONCERN IS ANOTHER MEASURE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS RUNNING SCARED ON THIS ISSUE.)

2. AS ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THE DEPTH OF THE PRESENT INTERNAL DEBATE, DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL TOOK THE AMBASSADOR ASIDE TO DISCUSS THE IEP AT A DINNER OCTOBER 21 GIVEN IN HONOR OF VISITING CINCEUR GENERAL EADE. NORWEGIAN CHIEF OF DEFENSE ZEINER GUNDERSEN
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PAGE 02 OSLO 04738 221544Z

HAD APPARENTLY PASSED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A RECENT CONVERSATION

WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON THE IEP IN WHICH HE HAD INDICATED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRESENT TREND IN GOVERNMENT THINKING. FOSTERVOLL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE, FRYDENLUND, CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOR PARTY STORTING GROUP, ODVAR NORDLI AND STORTING PRESIDENT, GUTTORM HANSEN ALL FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT NORWAY SHOULD BE A FULL MEMBER OF THE IEP. FOSTERVOLL SAID HE WAS EVEN CONSIDERING WHETHER A THREAT OF RESIGNATION ON HIS PART WOULD HELP SWING THE CABINET OVER TO SUPPORT FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP. HE WAS NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD CARRY THE DAY EVEN WITH SUCH EXTREME TACTICS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE THOUGHT THAT THE SUPPORTERS OF FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP COULD OBTAIN A VERY STRONG STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY SHORT OF FULL MEMBERSHIP OUT OF THE CABINET AS A COMPROMISE POSITION. (COMMENT: FOSTERVOLL'S REMARKS UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTTEL ON NORWAY'S PLANS TO SEEK SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE IEP. BUCHANAN

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